

**Abstract 497**

**TITLE:** Patterns of Antiretroviral Prescriptions Among HIV-Infected Patients in Care in the United States, 1998

**AUTHORS:** Dworkin, MS; Wan, P-CT; Jones, JL; McCombs, SB (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA)

**BACKGROUND/OBJECTIVES:** Combination antiretroviral therapy is recommended for many HIV-infected persons and all persons with AIDS.

**METHODS:** Since information on recent patterns of antiretroviral prescriptions for persons in care reflects actual (not just recommended) practice, we analyzed data from the Adult and Adolescent Spectrum of HIV Disease Surveillance Initiative (ASD) to describe the frequency of prescriptions of 1 (1T), 2 (2T), 3 (3T), and  $\geq 4$  ( $\geq 4$ T) antiretroviral drugs among patients in care. ASD is a longitudinal medical record surveillance project at inpatient and outpatient medical facilities (data from nine U.S. cities are presented here).

**RESULTS:** Of 2,644 patients (69% of whom had AIDS) prescribed antiretroviral medication during the most recent 12 months of observation and with  $\geq 6$  months of observation in 1998, 1% were prescribed 1T, 17% 2T, 65% 3T, and 17%  $\geq 4$ T. For patients with AIDS or at least one viral load of  $\geq 10,000$  during the year of observation ( $n = 2,388$ ), prescription patterns were the same: 1% 1T, 17% 2T, 65% 3T, and 17%  $\geq 4$ T. The most common combination prescriptions were zidovudine (ZDV)/lamivudine (3tC) (55%), stavudine (d4T)/3tC (22%) and saquinavir/ritonavir (4%) for patients prescribed 2T ( $n = 458$  prescriptions); d4T/3tC/nelfinavir (17%), ZDV/3tC/nelfinavir (14%), and d4T/3tC/indinavir (12%) for patients prescribed 3T ( $n = 1,719$  prescriptions). The most commonly prescribed 4T regimen was d4T/saquinavir/ritonavir/didanosine (ddI) (12% of 441 prescriptions); 70% of all 4T prescriptions contained  $\geq 2$  protease inhibitors (i.e., saquinavir, ritonavir, nelfinavir, indinavir, or amprenavir); 1% of all 4T prescriptions contained hydroxyurea.

**CONCLUSIONS:** Among patients with AIDS or a viral load  $\geq 10,000$ , 82% were prescribed  $\geq 3$  drug antiretroviral therapy. These data suggest increased compliance by providers with the antiretroviral prescription patterns recommended by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services compared to an earlier ASD analysis of patterns in 1996 and 1997, when only 56% of such patients were prescribed  $\geq 3$  drug therapy.

**PRESENTER CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Name:** Mark S. Dworkin, MD

**Address:** 1600 Clifton Road, NE, Mailstop E-47  
Atlanta, GA 30333

**Telephone:** (404) 639-2050

**Fax:** (404) 639-2980

**E-mail:** mdd3@cdc.gov